

## QUANTIFIERS (7)

### Countable vs. Uncountable (01)

In context

2 min

What is a quantifier?



*many* birds



*Little* water

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<sup>1</sup> Birds picture from m\_bartosch / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

## Types of Quantifiers

10 min

A quantifier is a word that expresses a quantity.

Some quantifiers are used with countable nouns:

<i>few</i> apples	}	small quantity
<i>a few</i> apples		
<i>a couple of</i> apples		
<i>several</i> apples	}	big quantity
<i>many</i> apples		
<i>most</i> apples		
<i>all</i> apples		

Some quantifiers are used with uncountable nouns:

<i>little</i> water	}	small quantity
<i>a little</i> water = <i>a bit of</i> water		
<i>much</i> water	}	big quantity

Some quantifiers work with countable and uncountable nouns:

*Enough* apples/water  
*a lack of* apples/water (= not enough)  
*a lot of* apples/water = *lots of* apples/water = *plenty of* apples/water  
*most of the* apples/water  
*all (of) the* apples/water

See the lesson on countable and uncountable nouns for details.

## Language Tips on Quantifiers

3 min

In formal English, it is better to use 'many' and 'much' rather than phrases such as 'a lot of', 'lots of' and 'plenty of'.

There is a difference between 'few' and 'a few':

### Examples:

*Few* flowers = not many flowers

*a few* flowers = some flowers

There is the same difference between 'little' and 'a little':

### Examples:

*little* time = not a lot of time

*a little* time = some time

## Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete the sentences with: *few* / *a few* / *little* / *a little*.

1. Could we have \_\_\_\_\_ Champagne, please?
2. They live in a very small flat because they have \_\_\_\_\_ money.
3. Very \_\_\_\_\_ people can speak 5 languages.
4. This plant needs \_\_\_\_\_ water and it is very handy.
5. They have already been to Africa \_\_\_\_\_ times.
6. We have \_\_\_\_\_ time before our flight.
7. He speaks German very well but sometimes he makes \_\_\_\_\_ mistakes.
8. I am happy she has \_\_\_\_\_ problems in her life.
9. Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ candies?
10. I know \_\_\_\_\_ about this subject.

## Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete the sentences with 'much' or 'many'.

1. I have \_\_\_\_\_ friends in Europe.
2. I don't drink \_\_\_\_\_ coffee.
3. How \_\_\_\_\_ children do you have?
4. How \_\_\_\_\_ does this bag cost?
5. How \_\_\_\_\_ rice do you need?
6. How \_\_\_\_\_ is this shirt?
7. We don't have \_\_\_\_\_ time.
8. I went to Minnesota \_\_\_\_\_ times last year.
9. There is not \_\_\_\_\_ sand in the car.
10. Jim works on \_\_\_\_\_ different projects.

## Reading Exercise

5 min

Read the sentences and find a synonym for the quantifier.

Example:

**I have many shoes.**

**Synonym: I have a lot of shoes.**

1. The children have plenty of toys.
2. Would you like a little champagne?
3. He spends the majority of his time on the computer.
4. I sent lots of emails.
5. There is a bit of water on the floor.

## Speaking Exercise with the Teacher (LOC-GR7-01-Si1)

5 min

Listen to the teacher's questions. Then, answer.

1. How many children do you have?
2. Do you have lots of friends?
3. Do you have little patience?
4. Do you spend plenty of money on clothes?
5. How much does gas cost in your country? (at the gas station)

## Speaking Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

Ask your teacher 4 questions using quantifiers.

1. How many \_\_\_\_\_?
2. How \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Do you have \_\_\_\_\_?
3. \_\_\_\_\_?

## Watch the Video!

5 min

With this video lesson, you will practice quantifiers.

Watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYsZ1cZzwwg>

Watch the video again and complete the text:

Angie is sad. She has \_\_\_\_\_ friends. Her cat is sick and has \_\_\_\_\_ time to live. She lives in her car. She has \_\_\_\_\_ clothing and \_\_\_\_\_ shoes. She has \_\_\_\_\_ money to buy what she needs. Sandra is happy. She worked \_\_\_\_\_ jobs this summer and saved \_\_\_\_\_ money for college. She has \_\_\_\_\_ close friends. She is going to spend \_\_\_\_\_ days camping. She has \_\_\_\_\_ to relax before the school starts.

*Note:* in the video, the speaker uses the terms "count nouns" and "non count nouns" to refer to countable and uncountable nouns.

## Quiz

10 min

### True or False?

1. There is no difference between 'little' and 'a little'. true false
2. 'few' is used with uncountable nouns. true false
3. Some quantifiers work with countable and uncountable nouns. true false
4. In formal English, it is better to use 'many' and 'much' rather than phrases such as 'a lot of', 'lots of' and 'plenty of'. true false

Match the quantifiers on the left to the appropriate definitions on the right.

1. little energy	a. a bit of energy
2. a little energy	b. a lot of energy
3. a lack of energy	c. not a lot of energy
4. much energy	d. not enough energy

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose the correct word(s):

1. They gave the homeless man \_\_\_\_\_ dollars. (a few / a little)
2. Americans give \_\_\_\_\_ money to charity. (much / many)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ women like shopping. (most / most of)
4. His \_\_\_\_\_ enthusiasm surprised me. (lack / lack of)
5. He drank \_\_\_\_\_ juice in his glass. (all / all the)
6. Did you buy \_\_\_\_\_ apples to cook a pie? (enough / much)
7. I wish I could spend \_\_\_\_\_ time in Egypt. (a few / a little)
8. It took very \_\_\_\_\_ time to cross Belgium! (few / little)
9. We know \_\_\_\_\_ people who face the same problem. (several / several of)
10. I stayed in that hotel \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. (much / many)